Bridge, which has been planned in the central portion of the station building. The contract for construction of a new Foot Over Bridge has since been awarded.

**Sickness of gang staff**

2081. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average 25 per cent of "D" category permanent way gang staff, remain on sick lists with man-days lost on this account remain unrecouped;

(b) if so, whether this affects track maintenance and thus the rail safety;

(c) whether his Ministry would take any steps to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The average staff absenteeism on account of sickness is less than 10%.

(b) Rail safety is not affected since provision of 12.5% leave rserve is considered for determining the gang strength.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has already taken some steps and have permitted execution of certain items related to track maintenance/ works through the deployment of contractual agencies to recoup the man days lost on account of absenteeism in the gang.

Besides, staff are regularly counselled by inspecting officials to take-preventice measures to avoid sickness. Regular medical check up, medications, counselling against abuse of alcohol, precaution against sun strokes and severe cold is advised from time to time. Strict disciplinary action is also taken against habitual absentees.

**Allocation for Orissa in Rail Budget 2006-07**

2082. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa has requested